

33082M0231

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Makoto OKABE, et al.

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Art Unit : To Be Assigned

Filed: February 6, 2002

Examiner : To Be Assigned

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, between the title and the heading "Background of the Invention" insert --The present application is a continuation of Serial No. 09 457,295, filed December 9, 1999, which prior application is incorporated herein by reference. - -

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 11-14 as set forth in the attached sheet entitled "NEW CLAIMS".